(b) The overall objective of the schemes/programmes referred to in part (a) above is to enhance the efficiency, productivity, quality and competitiveness of the SSI.

(c) and (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has laid down standards for a large number of products manufactured by the SSI. The Central Government has established four Regional Testing Centres and seven Field Testing Stations at various places in the country to provide necessary facilities to the SSI for testing the quality of their products. Besides, the Central Government also implements a scheme for reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification upto Rs. 75,000, with a view to enhancing the quality of production in the SSI.

Suggestion of ASSOCHAM on investment ceiling in SSIs

†1447. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM has advised to increase the investment ceiling in small scale industries from one crore to five crore;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken on the above suggestion of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (ASSOCHAM)?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has so far notified enhancement of the ceiling on investment from Rs 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore (excluding land and building) in respect of small scale industries manufacturing 140 notified products and as well as drugs and pharmaceuticals. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 May 2005, includes provision to classify a manufacturing small enterprise as one in which the investment in plant and machinery (excluding land and building) is upto Rs. 5 crore.

Status of SSI in Andhra Pradesh

1448. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of SSI in Andhra Pradesh in the present context of globalisation and entry of global players in the domestic market;

(b) whether his Ministry has evolved any policy to safeguard Small Scale Industry in the country as they have to face stiff competition from global players; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the status of small scale industries (SSI) in terms of number of units registered, estimated employment and fixed investment as on 31.12.2005 is given below:

Year	No. of registered SSI units	Estimated employment generated	Estimated fixed investment (Rs. crore)
2001-02	64420	392492	6387.56
2002-03	65768	400705	6521.22
2003-04	67312	410112	6674.32
2004-05	68930	419970	6834.75
2005-06 (upto 31.12.05)	69888	425807	6929.74

(b) and (c) To safeguard the interests of SSI, including those in Andhra Pradesh, in the face of competition from global players, the Central Government has put in place appropriate trade-defence mechanisms, such as safeguards against surge of imports, anti-dumping measures, etc. In addition, several steps have been taken to help the SSI become competitive, both in India and globally. These, *inter alia*, include schemes/programmes for technology upgradation, availability of collateral-free credit up to Rs. 5 lakh, credit guarantee for loans up to Rs. 25 lakh, development of clusters, creating awareness among the SSI by sensitizing them to the emerging challanges of trade liberalization, reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification up to Rs. 75,000/-, reimbursement of registration fee up to Rs. 15,000/- for adopting bar coding of products.

Funds for projects run by Harijan Sevak Sangh

1449. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have stopped the funding for projects run by Harijan Sevak Sangh (HSS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such projects which are run by Harijan Sewak Sangh and being denied funds;